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DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF POLICY GUIDELINES ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM FOR PHILIPPINE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract

Academic freedom is a vaguely understood concept brought forth by the lack of a unified document that enumerates all the relevant existing laws in the Philippines. Although there are available laws on academic freedom, they are found on different legal documents. Added to the difficulty of locating them, these documents contain redundant provisions and some are even contradictories. In an attempt to mitigate this problem, the researcher developed policy guidelines on academic freedom for Philippine Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The presence of a codified provisions on academic freedom may reduce, if not eliminate, inaccurate or conflicting interpretations among stakeholder in the academic environments. Applying an interdisciplinary method of research, secondary data were collected from web portals containing primary sources such as jurisprudence from the Supreme Court. These data were analyzed, inferred, and integrated and came up with policy guidelines comprising three dimensions and twenty two items which were validated by academic experts. Almost all of the sections were rated by the validators as acceptable and there was only one item that was rated with needs revision. By incorporating the recommendations for revision, the proposed policy guidelines was deemed acceptable.

Keywords: academic freedom, codified laws, policy-guidelines, higher education

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